DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 457 124 SO 033 027

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TITLE	First Encounters: Native Americans and Europeans in the Mississippi Valley. [CD-ROM].
INSTITUTION	Arkansas Univ., Fayetteville.
SPONS AGENCY	National Endowment for the Humanities (NFAH), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	2000-00-00
NOTE	0p.; Produced by Arkansas Archeological Survey, a division of the University of Arkansas System, and members of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville Department of Foreign Languages. Minimum system requirements for Microsoft Windows: Pentium-class computer with 16 MB RAM; Microsoft Windows 95, 98, NT 4.0, or 2000; Quicktime 4.0 or higher (included on this CD); 2X CD-ROM drive; and sound card. Also available for Macintosh.
AVAILABLE FROM	Arkansas Archeological Survey, 2475 North Hatch Avenue, Fayetteville, AR 72704. Tel: 501-575-3556; e-mail: contact@cavern.uark.edu; Web site: http://www.uark.edu/depts/contact/background.html.
PUB TYPE	Historical Materials (060) -- Non-Print Media (100)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	American Indians; *Curriculum Enrichment; Ethnic Groups; Higher Education; Optical Data Disks; Primary Sources; Second Language Learning; Secondary Education; *Simulation; Student Research; *United States History
IDENTIFIERS	*Cultural Encounters; Learning Across the Curriculum; *Mississippi Valley; Native Americans; Regional History

ABSTRACT

This CD-ROM provides interactive, multimedia software that enables students to investigate many aspects of Native American and European encounters in the Mississippi Valley through study of original historical sources, including texts, maps, artworks, and archaeological finds. The Lower Mississippi Valley was chosen as the study area because of the region's great range of cultural encounters, involving numerous British, French, Spanish, African, and Native American groups. Since many of the original documents were written by French and Spanish explorers, language-learning tracks were also developed, making the software useful for multiple subject teaching across the curriculum. "Hands-on" interactive learning exercises that simulate real-world research problems are provided. Students use authentic historical sources in these exercises to answer questions about Native American and European encounters. The exercises are arranged in an "interactional spiral" of increasingly sophisticated queries that prompt students completing one level of investigation to tackle a more complex level of study. The interactional spiral consists of three levels: Beginner (middle/junior high school), Intermediate (high school), and Advanced (college). The software consists of three language tracks--English, French, and Spanish--each containing several modules. A graphical interface guides users through introductory presentations and associated learning exercises. Users can access a glossary, a bibliography of suggested readings, a notepad for writing essay answers, and other learning tools. An online list of additional classroom projects and activities is provided. (BT)

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